



RALPH BUTTERFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
GOVERNING BODY
“Imagine, Believe, Strive, Achieve”



Collective Worship

- Under the Education Act 1996, all maintained schools, except maintained special schools, must provide daily collective worship for all registered pupils.
- The DfE published non-statutory guidance on collective worship in 1994. This guidance remains current.
- The guidance explains in paragraph 60 that collective worship in schools without a designated religious character will be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature". Paragraph 61 adds that collective worship should not be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually provided within a daily assembly. The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the head teacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted.

Aim

At Ralph Butterfield we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It is also an opportunity to re-inforce aspects of our RE and PSHE curriculum and our school aims of 'Care for and about each other, showing respect and understanding towards everyone, recognising and respecting individuality and children's differing experiences'. In our school, Collective Worship is also used to celebrate success in line with our aims to 'Encourage everyone to have high expectations of themselves and others' and 'Enable everyone to realise their full potential, to encourage self-motivation and encourage children to be proud of their own achievements.'

Organisation:

At our school collective worship is set within the context of 'Assemblies' – which may include other features besides those required of collective worship. Worship has a wide range of meanings and forms of expression. For some people this might be devotion to a divine being, power or personal God; for others it might mean reflection on and understanding of those elements of life which are of valued and worth. Whilst recognising our statutory duty, our school does serve a community with widely held religious beliefs and our assemblies reflect this. Our prayers and forms of worship are inclusive and broadly non-denominational.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly every day. These assemblies normally involve all of the pupils in the school and may be whole school assemblies or separate key stage assemblies, with their times varying accordingly. Assemblies will usually last about 15 minutes. We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. This is implemented as follows:

- We ensure assembly time is a period of calm reflection.
- We regard it as a special
- We expect children to behave in an appropriate manner.
- We ask children to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully.

Our assemblies also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage children to participate by answering questions and sharing their thoughts during assemblies and holding a weekly 'Celebration Assembly', during which children can show their work and successes to others.

These assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and to celebrate them together. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school - that all children and their achievements are valued.

Assemblies are normally conducted by the Headteacher, deputy head and post threshold members of staff, but are sometimes led by visitors to the school.

Assemblies themes are very broad to allow for flexibility and variety of delivery and include the major religious and cultural festivals, SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) themes and issues pertinent to the school and children. They follow the pattern:

Day	Focus	Person Leading	Pupils involved	Location
Monday	Theme of week/ spiritual focus	Headteacher	Whole School	Hall
Tuesday	Celebration Moral/Cultural/ Spiritual Focus	EYFS/KS1 Leader	KS1	Hall
	Moral/Cultural/ Spiritual Focus	KS2 classteachers	KS2	Classroom
Wednesday	Moral/Cultural/ Spiritual Focus	Post threshold teacher	Whole School	Hall
Thursday	Open the Book / theme of week	Deputy Headteacher	KS2	Hall
	Moral/Cultural/ Spiritual Focus	KS1 and EYFS classteachers	KS1 and EYFS	Classroom
Friday	Celebration	Headteacher	Whole School	Hall

Right of withdrawal

- Parents have the right to withdraw their child totally or partially from the daily act of collective worship if they wish.
- At Ralph Butterfield School we seek to be an inclusive community. However, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Headteacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. It would then be the Head's responsibility to arrange supervision for any such child.
- Teachers, including the Head, have the legal right to withdraw from the Act of Collective Worship. The Headteacher remains responsible for finding someone suitable to organise and lead acts of worship.
- Every effort is made to show sensitivity towards personal faiths and to include all pupils and staff in collective worship. For example when using a prayer from a particular faith, this is introduced with sensitivity and pupils are not required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe.
- There may be parts of an assembly, for example when a Christian hymn is sung, in which a pupil does not wish to participate. It is perfectly acceptable to withdraw from a part of the assembly by not participating.
- A parent may make a request for their child/children to be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at school.
- If necessary, staff should ensure that they have informed the Head of their decision to exercise their right of withdrawal from collective worship, but should note the requirement that they may be required to assist in the supervision of pupils in assembly, as necessary.

The Contribution of Collective Worship to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of Pupils

One of the key aims of collective worship is to offer pupils opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Spiritual Development is promoted by:

- the celebration of special achievements
- guided reflection
- consideration of a variety of beliefs, values and feelings
- appreciation of aspects of life which have special meaning and which contribute to a sense of awe and wonder

Moral Development is promoted by:

- consideration of moral codes found in school, in religions and in society
- consideration of relationships

- encouraging empathy by the consideration of moral issues from different perspectives

Social Development is promoted by:

- coming together as a school / class group
- bringing visitors into school from the community
- sharing values and matters of concern

Cultural Development is promoted by:

- using music, art, drama, story and artefacts from a range of cultural backgrounds
- exploring and celebrating aspects of religion and culture

External agencies leading assemblies

- From time to time invited individuals or groups may lead Collective Worship. They will be advised by the Headteacher or other senior /subject leader about the appropriate content and written guidance is available to them.
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Review
- It is the role of the Governing Body to monitor and review the policy and practice of collective worship in the school.

This policy supports our school aims of

- Care for and about each other, showing respect and understanding towards everyone, recognising and respecting individuality and children’s differing experiences. Recognise cultural diversity and uphold British Values. (Articles: 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34)
- Enable everyone to realise their full potential, to encourage self-motivation and encourage children to be proud of their own achievements. (Articles: 1,2,3, 23, 28, 29)
- Encourage everyone to have high expectations of themselves and others; to be open to challenge, curious and honest (Articles: 1, 2, 3, 23, 28, 29)
- Enable children to become confident and independent learners, who are reflective, resilient and collaborative (Articles: 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 13, 28, 29)
- Create a safe and stimulating environment where we respect the school environment, the property of others and ourselves (including individual safety, safeguarding and e safety (Articles: 1, 2, 3, 11, 19, 24, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33-37)
- Provide a rich, enjoyable, broad and balanced curriculum, enhanced by experiences and opportunities; a curriculum which prepares pupils and instils values for life such as safety and healthy living (Articles: 1, 2, 3, 28, 29, 31, 42)

Approved by the Governing Body
Date: March 19
Policy to be reviewed in March 22